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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05

ACDA-10 AEC-07 OES-04 /089 W
---------- 053733
O 311335Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4885
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 14683

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 31 PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT

SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY'S FINAL DAY IN INDIA DOMINATED THE NEWS CARRIED IN NEW DELHI'S PRESS OCTOBER 31. MOST NEWSPAPERS OFFERED WRAP-UP EDITORIALS WHICH JUDGED BOTH INDIA AND THE US HAD AMPLE REASON FOR SATISFACTION WITH THE VISIT'S OUTCOME. THE EXPRESS "NEW CHAPTER" IN INDO-US RELATIONS SET THE TONE FOR COMMENTARIES IN THREE OF THE MAJOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES. THE COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER PREDICTABLY TERMED THE VISIT "A FLOP", AND EXPRESSED ITS TRADITIONAL FEARS OF US SUBVERSION OF INDIAN INSTITUTIONS AND THE ECONOMY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SECRETARY'S CONCLUDING DAY IN NEW DELHI DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGES OF THE LOCAL PRESS TO THE SAME IMPRESSIVE EXTENT AS DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS. VIRTUALLY ALL DELHI NEWS-PAPERS OCTOBER 31 GAVE THEIR LEAD STORY TO THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, FRONTPAGING AS WELL A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SECRETARY TAKEN AT THE CONFERENCE. THE CONSPICUOUS EXCEPTION WAS THE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER PATRIOT
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WHICH REPORTED THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE AS A SUBORDNATE

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ITEM UNDER A HEADLINE "KISSINGER FAILS TO ALLAY DOUBTS ON US DESIGNS". THE PATRIOT'S HINDI-LANGUAGE SISTER PUBLICATION JANYUG TOOK THE SAME LINE WITH A HEADLINE: "KISSINGER DID NOT ALLAY INDIA'S FEARS".

2. UNDER A HEADLINE "FOUNDATION LAID FOR MORE MATURE RELATIONSHIP", THE NATIONAL HERALD LED WITH THE SECRETARY'S CHARACTERIZATION OF HIS MISSION AS "A COMPLETE SUCCESS". THE HINDUSTAN TIMES PUT THE MAIN ACCENT ON THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON AID, HEADLINING ITS REPORT "US AID TO INDIA SERVES INTEREST OF BOTH: KISSINGER". THE TIMES OF INDIA FEATURED THE SECRETARY'S ASSURANCE OF NONINTERFERENCE (US TO KEEP OFF INDIA'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS") WHILE THE MOTHERLAND HEADLINE BETRAYED THE JANA SANGH PARTY'S CONTINUING ANXIETY ABOUT US ARMS POLICY TOWARD THE SUBCONTINENT ("US STAND ON ARMS TO PINDI STILL REMAINS VAGUE"). SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO CARRIED THE SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW TO ALL-INDIA RADIO AND INITIAL REPORTS FROM HIS DACCA VISIT.

3. ALL NEW DELHI'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS EXCEPT THE PATRIOT (WHICH DISSENTED), THE NATIONAL HERALD (WHICH APPROVED BUT HEDGED WITH AN "ONLY TIME WILL TELL" CONCLUSION) AND THE TIMES OF INDIA (WHICH FURNISHED ITS COMMENTS YESTERDAY, NEW DELHI 14635) EDITORIALIZED TO THEEFFECT THAT BOTH INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES COULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE VISIT. UNDER THE HEADING "NEW CHAPTER", THE INDIAN EXPRESS COMMENTED THAT THE US HAS "MORE OR LESS ACCEPTED THAT THE 'TILT' OF 1971 WAS A MISTAKE" AND THE SECRETARY BOTH "RECOGNIZED INDIA'S ROLE AS A MAJOR POWER IN SOUTH ASIA" AND A"ACCEPTED" HER ASSURANCE ON NON-PROLIFERATION. THE EXPRESS EDITORIAL CONCLUDED: "THE CHILL HAS ENDE AND WHILE THE OLD WARMTH MAY NOT SOON RETURN IT IS POSSIBLE TO HOPE THAT INDO-US RELATIONS WILL DEVELOP ON REASONABLY FRIENDLY AND HEALTHY LINES."

4. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, UNDER A SIMILAR HEADING "OPENING A NEW CHAPTER", CONCLUDED IN ITS EDITORIAL THAT THE VISIT HAS BEEN "SIGNIFICANT AND SUCCESSFUL, POSSIBLY FAR BEYOND THE MORE PEDESTRIAN EXPECTATIONS EARLIER ENTERTAINED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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REGARD TO ITS OUTCOME." THE HINDUSTAN TIMES SAW THREE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS: (1) THE DONOR-RECIPIENT RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL RESPECT, INTERDEPENDENCE AND A SEARCH FOR AREAS OF COMMON ENDEAVOR (THE JOINT COMMISSION WAS CITED AS THE KEY SYMBOL); (2) THE US HAD ENDORSED THE SIMLA PROCESS WHILE ACCORDING INDIA A "SPECIAL ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH ASIA AND WORLD AFFAIRS"; AND (3) THE US HAD PUBLICLY AFFIRMED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF INDIA'S

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PEACEFUL NUCLEAR INTENT AND "IS GURARDEDLY ADMITTING"
THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION TECHNOLOGY CAN HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE TO PLAY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WITH RESPECT TO
POINT (3), THE EDITORIAL CAUTIONS THAT THE US POLICY
WILL BE TESTED DURING THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE
NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE.MOYNIHAN

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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5. THE USE OF THE EXPRESSION "NEW CHAPTER" TO DESCRIBE
INDO-US RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT ALSO
FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE NATIONAL HERALD OCTOBER 31 EDITORIAL.
CITING THE "BITTER MEMORIES OF THE DISTANT AND RECENT
PAST", THE WRITER DECLARED THAT THE VISIT REPRESENTS A
"NEW CHAPTER" AND "A GOOD BEGINNING.../BUT/ SINCE
ASSURANCES ALONE DO NOT MATTER, THEIR FULFILLMENT WILL HAVE
TO BE WATCHED." THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT
"THERE ARE TWO LIMITATIONS TO THE UNDERSTANDING THEY HAVE
REACHED, DIEGO GARCIA IS ONE. THE CIA IS THE OTHER. IN
SPITE OF DR. KISSINGER'S ASSURANCE THAT HE WILL REMOVE
ANY AMERICAN KNOWN TO BE WORKING AGAINST INDIA'S SECURITY,
IT HAS TO BE REMEMBERED THAT THE CIA WORKS MOSTLY COVERTLY,
THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR IT TO CHANGE ITS HABITS AND THAT
IT IS ALMOST A PARALLEL GOVERNMENT."

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6. THE STATESMAN EDITORIALIZED THAT THE SECRETARY IS
ENTITLED TO CLAIM THAT HIS VISIT WAS COMPLETELY SUCCESS-
FUL AND "NEW DELHI TOO HAS GOOD REASON TO FEEL
SATISFIED." WHILE SAYING "A CEREMONIAL VISIT ALONE WILL
NOT SUFFICE," THE STATESMAN CONCLUDED THAT "A STEADY
IMPROVEMENT/IN RELATIONS/ IS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY
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SINCE BOTH SIDES REALIZE THE NEED TO AVOID MUTUAL IRRITATATION
EVEN IN AREAS WHERE THERE CANNOT BE AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS."
THE JANA SANGH DAILY MOTHERLAND OFFERED THE THOUGHT THAT
A "RECONCILIATION" BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US HAD BEEN MADE
"INEVITABLE" WITH THE VINDICATION OF INDIA'S STAND ON
BANGLADESH, "THE EXIT OF 'TILTING' US PRESIDENT NIXON" AND
THE MAY 18 EXPLOSION. THERE IS NOW "NO PATRONIZING BY
WASHINGTON AND NO CRINGING BY NEW DELHI." ACCORDING TO
THE MOTHERLAND EDITORIAL, "THIS IS A POSITIVE
ACHIEVEMENT FOR MATURER RELATIONS...BUT IT IS NOT AN
ACHIEVEMENT WHICH DISSOLVES ALL DIFFERENCES."

7. THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA VEHEMENTLY EXPRESSED ITS
VIEWS ON THE VISIT IN THE PATRIOT'S WRAP-UP EDITORIAL
OCTOBER 31. DESCRIBING THE VISIT AS A "FLOP" AND THE
COMMUNIQUE AS "FULL OF PLATITUDES" HAVING "NOT MUCH
SUBSTANCE", THE EDITORIAL "ENTITLED "UNCHANGED")
PLAYED UP THE WORST FEARS OF US SUBVERSION IN INDIA
AND DEPRECATED THE SECRETARY'S ROLE. ON THE JOINT COMMISSION,
THE PATRIOT ASSERTED: "THE MUCH TALKED OF JOINT COMMISSION
HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A TREMENDOUS FIRST-STEP. THIS
HOWEVER WILL DEPEND ON HOW SUCCESSFUL, INEVITABLE AMERICAN
ATTEMPTS TO INFILTRATE THE INDIAN ECONOMY, TO SABOTAGE OUR
TECHNOLOGICAL STRUCTURE BY CASTRATING IT OF INITIATIVES FOR
SELF-RELIANCE AND TO CONTAMINATE OUR EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC
SYSTEMS FURTHER, WILL BE. AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN INDIA
AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIESHAS THESE AS TRADITIONAL
OBJECTIVES." WITH RESPECT TO THE SECRETARY'S ROLE, THE
PATRIOT SAID IN PART: "IT IS BEGINNING TO BECOME CLEAR THAT
THE DIRE CHINESE NEED FOR AN AMERICAN CERTIFICATE OF MERIT,
AND THE SOVIET UNION'S PRINCIPLED APPROACH TO DETENTE WERE
MUCH MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "BREAKTHROUGHS" IN THOSE
FIELDS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY THAN DR. KISSINGER'S
ALLEGEDLY FANTASTIC GENIUS. AS FOR THIS COUNTRY, A HUNDRED
KISSINGER VISITS WILL NOT CHANGE THE COLD FACT THAT AS
LONG AS WE DO NOT ASSERT A POLICY OF TOTAL SELF-
RELIANCE IN ALL OUR DEALINGS WITH MONOPOLY-CAPITALIST
COUNTRIES, EVERY OPPORTUNITY OF MUTUAL CONTACT CAN BECOME
A SOURCE OF DANGER FOR US. DR. KISSINGER'S CHIT TO THE
EFFECT THAT WE ARE A 'MAJOR POWER' WILL NOT ADD TO THE
REAL POWER OF THIS NATION. IT CAN ONLY GULL FURTHER OUR
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LARGE AND AFFLUENT VOICE OF AMERICA COMMUNITY."MOYNIHAN

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